The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, concerning the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
2 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1731 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1944 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 34, NO. 24

FACING *the* FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

The soil of France again is being soaked with blood. Fate seems to have ordained it as the perennial battleground of freedom. Radiophotos of our dead lying on the beaches of Normandy and of enemy dead strewn along the highways to Cherbourg remind us of the terrible price which human beings have been forced to pay through the ages to be free and to stay free.

Not all the fighting is being done on the battlefields. Dispatches from neutral countries report widespread strikes in France against the Nazi overlords and even armed uprisings in several industrial communities. Many of these workers will be slaughtered for their daring resistance to their Nazi oppressors.

This kind of fighting may seem futile and hopeless, but in the long run it probably will accomplish more toward the overthrow of Hitler's gang than air raids and frontal attacks by tanks, artillery and infantry.

Collapse of Hitler's war machine behind the lines—in Germany as well as in France and other occupied countries—will end the war much sooner than an unaided military assault, even with superior forces. This was proved in the last World War when Germany was forced to surrender because its people suddenly quit supporting the Kaiser's war effort.

Germans Fed Up With Hitler

Our hopes for ending this war much sooner than expected rest upon the belief that the common people of Germany must by now be completely fed up with Hitler's lying promises, with his terroristic methods and with the sufferings which he has brought upon them.

They must realize, as all the world does, that the cause of the Nazis is now hopeless and that further resistance against the United Nations will only multiply ten-fold the torrent of death and destruction pouring down upon them relentlessly, day after day and night after night, from the skies.

Can any human beings endure indefinitely the modern holocaust of air bombings when they no longer can hope for or expect relief?

The workers of Germany, who were never sold on Hitler and have served as his unwilling slaves under threat of torture, imprisonment in concentration camps, must be near the breaking point.

For this reason, AFL President William Green addressed a message to them via the short-wave radio facilities of OWI a few days after the successful invasion of France by the Allied armies of liberation. He advised the workers of Germany to stop working and stop producing for Hitler and to prepare themselves for the signal to rise up against him when such action can be taken with some assurance of success. That time may not be far off now, but an unplanned and premature uprising would be unfortunate. The signal must be given by Gen. Eisenhower at the proper moment.

The Sword of Fear

The only hold Hitler still maintains over the workers of Germany is fear. He has made this sword of fear a double-edged weapon. They fear his vengeance and they fear our vengeance.

It is important, therefore, that we blast Hitler's propaganda regarding our motives and purposes with respect to the common people of Germany.

All Americans are in agreement that those responsible for the Nazi atrocities must be punished with utmost severity. Unquestionably, a large proportion of German workers join with us in the hope that this punishment can be meted out at an early date.

But it never has been America's purpose to seek vengeance against Hitler's unwilling slaves, against the common people who were duped by him or forced to do his bidding at the point of the bayonet.

Hitler is trying to make his people believe that the Allied troops intend to put every German to death. Nothing could be more grate about a "hard" peace and who profess to regard every German as a murderer are, therefore, playing right into Hitler's hands.

If we hope to shorten the war by inducing the German people to turn against Hitler, we must make clear to the German people that such efforts on their part will earn mercy and consideration at our hands.

Right now, those inside Germany who know the facts—and the number is growing daily—realize their only hope of survival and salvation lies in a quick victory for the United Nations. If we let them that door is their faces, they can only go on fighting and resisting with a hopeless desperation which will not change the outcome of the war but will delay it and cost many thousands of lives.

All Strikes Off, Green Cables Gen. Eisenhower; AFL Pledges $750,000,000 To War Bond Drive

No AFL Strikes Following D-Day

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor sent the following cablegram to General Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 9:

"NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD INFORMS ME THAT ITS DOCKET SHOWS NOT A SINGLE STRIKE IN NATION INVOLVING AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS AS OF THIS DAY. OUR SEVEN MILLION MEMBERS ARE ON THE JOB SUPPORTING YOU TO THE LIMIT. WE HOPE THIS INFORMATION WILL ENCOURAGE YOU AND YOUR BRAVE MEN IN THE GRAVE TASKS AHEAD.

"WILLIAM GREEN, PRESIDENT
"AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR."

AFL Sets $750,000,000 War Bond Quota For Its 7 Million Members In Drive

Washington, D. C.—The AFL has set a voluntary quota of $750,000,000 in War Bonds purchases for its members during the Fifth War Loan Drive. Launching labor's participation in this all-out effort, President William Green declared:

"The American Federation of Labor calls upon its 7,000,000 members to purchase at least $750,000,000 worth of War Bonds during the Fifth War Loan Drive.

"To fulfil this quota of $750,000,000 each member of the American Federation of Labor should buy at least $100 worth of bonds during the drive. I know that many of our members, who are able to do so, will be glad to subscribe more than this amount.

"The world is fighting for America and will not hold back their dollars at a time when millions of our boys are freely offering their lives to crush the enemy and win final victory over Hitler.

"Every one of us is anxious to back up the invasion forces in every way we can. The members of our unions can help our troops most and hurt Hitler most by working harder than ever before and investing everything they can in War Bonds.

"Let's buy more to shorten the war!"

First large bond purchases by unions when the drive opened were $1,250,000 worth by the International Association of Machinists and another $1,000,000 worth by the National Letter Carriers Association.

Fulton Lewis Hails AFL War Record

Washington, D. C.—Following is an excerpt from the regular news broadcast of Fulton Lewis, Jr., over the Mutual network on June 6:

"Just a few minutes earlier, however, one of the leaders of organized labor had foregrueseed the President on that point. . . . Mr. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor issued a call to members of his great organization, in whatever work they may be engaged, telling them that in this critical hour they must consider themselves to be part of the invsbion forces and they must perform accordingly.

"That was hardly necessary perhaps because the American Federation of Labor has had an excellent record during this war so far as strikes are concerned. The wildcat walkouts and the paralyzing stoppages of work have been in the most part by CIO unions, but it was an admirable and leaderlike statement nevertheless."

"Quit Working For Nazi War Effort," Green Radios To German Labor

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor called upon the workers of Germany to stop working in support of Hitler's war effort and to prepare to rise against the Nazis "when the signal is given." His message, broadcast to occupied Europe over the short-wave facilities of OWI, follows:

"Armies of the United Nations have landed on the shores of France. Nothing Hitler and your other false leaders have been able to do has prevented these landings. And once more the boasts of your leaders have been turned by the allied arms into empty lies.

"For many months you have heard Nazi leaders claim that allied landings on the continent would be impossible. These claims have been shattered, just as all their hopes of avoiding defeat will be shattered.

"What hope then, is left for you? There is only one. You know that the Allied army is not an army of vengeance. It is an army which promises just punishment to tyrants and aggressors and hope to men of good will. This army on the march, whose ominous steps are ringing in the ears of the Nazis and their puppet quislings, will continue its unconquerable advance from the beaches of France into your country.

"Whether it carries destruction to you as well as to your false leaders depends on you, the workers of Germany. Many of your brothers, workers like yourselves, are this moment fighting in the ranks of the German army. They are dying, betrayed by their leaders, left behind to face the fury of our armies' onslaught. They were left behind only yesterday on the beaches of France, as a few days ago other German workers were left behind to die at Cassino, and the Hitler line—your guard sacrifices to their own leaders' lies and false promises. And more will be left behind as futile rear-guards to die when we continue to outflank your armies.

"Will you, like your brothers in the German armies, allow yourselves to be betrayed, or will you win your way to salvation and ultimate freedom? You can and you do like. You can in countless ways during the coming weeks show yourselves to be brothers to workers throughout the world. You can stop working for the tyrants who would betray you. You can prepare yourselves to rise up against them when the time comes and when the signal is given. You can win your way into the respect of working men throughout the world, by holding yourselves ready to join in the fight for freedom. The choice is still yours."

ITALIAN LABOR LEADER MURDERED BY NAZIS

Rome, Italy.—Bruno Buozzi, Italian Socialist labor leader for the last 40 years, was brutally murdered by German Elite Guard men along with 13 other prisoners just before the Allied capture of Rome.

Signor Buozzi was a former Deputy. As a Socialist he fought Benito Mussolini in the years preceding fascism. He was an exile in France when the collaborationists turned him over to Mussolini. After the overthrow of Il Duce, he resumed leadership of Socialists and became secretary of the General Confederation of Labor. Then he fell into German hands.

HARRY BRIDGES NO HERO TO THIS CIO UNION

Hot Springs, Ark.—Harry Bridges is no hero to some of his fellow CIO members.

The CIO Aluminum Workers Union, meeting here, adopted a resolution demanding the removal of Bridges as CIO California Director, charging him with supporting "every reactionary movement by anti-labor forces in this country." Among specific counts cited against him were endorsement of labor conscription, support for Sewell Avery's stand in the Montgomery Ward case and other actions "to the detriment of organized labor."

AFL-BUILT P-T CRAFT DARE NAZI DESTROYERS

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department announced that two small torpedo boats, the PT 212 and PT 214, which were built by members of Boilermakers Union (AFL) at Higgins Industries, Inc., New Orleans, La., recently took on two Nazi destroyers off the Italian coast.

The daring little PTs kept the Nazi destroyers occupied while Allied naval guns blew up the convoy the destroyers were escorting to the battle zones.

IFTU TELLS HOW NAZIS SEIZED MAGYAR UNIONS

Washington, D. C.—Following the "taking over" of Hungary in March by the Nazi forces, labor's political and trade union organizations have shared the fate of their fellows in Germany and other occupied countries. How this was done is summarized by the London office of the International Federation of Trade Unions as follows:

"The Minister of the Interior of the newly formed quisling government has dissolved the Social-Democratic party and all its affiliated or kindred organizations. This occasion has been used by the formerly insignificant National Workers Organization, maintained by extremist right-wing groups, to realize a long-wished-for dream.

"As its president, Marton, recently announced, its hordes have taken possession of practically all party and trade union premises, labor clubs, etc., in the whole country. It is the fascistic example of the German Labor Front, that of brigandage, inspired by hate, envy and fear, is defended in public under such pretenses as the necessity to bode unemployment and the restoration of national liberty for the work-people."

TEXTILE UNION SETTLES INTERNAL DIFFERENCES

Washington, D. C.—Settlement of the differences between two groups within the United Textile Workers of America, AFL, was completed here after representatives of the two groups had been in conference with President William Green of the American Federation of Labor for three days.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was recommended by Mr. Green and accepted by both sides, all litigation pending in the courts as a result of the dispute will be promptly discontinued. The agreement further provides that the woolen and worsted department be set up within the UTW to replace the now defunct Union of Woolen and Worsted Workers.

Representatives of the contesting groups pledged themselves to unity and promotion of the common interests of the union and in support of a nation-wide organizing campaign among textile workers.

CRUIKSHANK NAMED WMC VICE-CHAIRMAN

Washington, D. C. — Nelson H. Cruikshank, executive assistant to WMC's National Management-Labor Policy Committee, has been appointed WMC assistant vice-chairman for labor relations, Chairman Paul V. McNutt announced.

Cruikshank, formerly directed relief activities of the Brooklyn, N. Y., Federation of Charities. He did American Friends Service Work in Connecticut, was in charge of Workers' Education School at New Haven.

In 1936-37 he was in labor relations representative in the South of the Resettlement Administration, and came to Washington in 1938 to take charge of migratory labor programs for the Farm Security Administration. In 1942 he served in the WPB Office of Labor Production.

WATT CHOSEN FOR STATE DEPT. POST

Washington, D. C.—Robert J. Watt, AFL international representative, was appointed adviser to the Department of State's Division of Labor Relations, Secretary Hull announced. He will advise the State Department on labor matters and on political problems in the international field.

ORGANIZED LABOR HELPS SERVICEMEN, OWI SAYS

Washington, D. C. — Servicemen have a real champion in organized labor, the Office of War Information officially conceded.

The OWI published a round-up report on what is being done for discharged veterans of the present war and included in it a warm tribute to the role played by labor in defending the rights of returning soldiers.

Labor's Full Strength Mobilized To Support Invasion As Military Leaders Praise Past Achievements

Washington, D. C.—Labor mobilized its maximum strength across the length and breadth of America to back up Allied invasion forces, fighting on the beachheads of France, with overwhelming superiority in war material over the enemy.

Forty-eight hours after D-Day the docket of the National War Labor Board was cleared of any and all strikes involving AFL unions and President William Green cabled the good news to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, in command of the Allied expeditionary forces.

Following up this all-out support on the production line, President Green called on the 7,000,000 AFL members to buy at least $750,000,000 worth of War Bonds in the current Fifth War Loan Drive.

"Let's buy more to shorten the war," the AFL chief appealed.

Leaders of AFL organizations in every part of the country rallied to the call for redoubled service and reported production going full blast on the nation's production front.

At the same time, Army and Navy chiefs paid high tribute to the long production battle waged by the nation's workers which made the invasion possible.

The industrial incentive division of the Navy declared in an official release:

"The pledge of union workers to build a bridge of landing craft to storm the beaches of the enemy was revealed in fact when allied troops stormed the fortress of Hitler's Fortress Europe. Over 4,000 vessels took part in the initial invasion, great numbers of them being LCTs (Landing Craft, Infantry) and LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank)."

American output of combat planes is now at a rate greater than 4 to 1 in comparison with Germany's and better than 7 to 1 compared with Japanese production, Charles E. Wilson, chairman of the Aircraft Production Board revealed.

Military experts said these figures showed why Hitler's Luftwaffe failed so miserably to prevent the invasion of Normandy.

D-Day found U. S. production of aircraft since Pearl Harbor soaring above the 180,000 mark. The War Department disclosed that artillery production has been stepped up enormously this year. Shipyards tripled the production of landing craft within the past six months.

Thus, as Lieut. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps, said, "our expanding strength comes, at the source, from the people who are building and paying for our weapons."

In the AFL "Labor For Victory" broadcast over a nation-wide NBC network on June 11, Mr. Green said:

"Today, more than 1,500,000 members of the American Federation of Labor are serving in the armed forces of the nation alongside of other boys from all walks of life.

"Today, the 7,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor, serving on the production front here at home, are working harder than ever before to give our fighting men the backing and support they need.

"Today, out of the vast flow of planes, ships, tanks, guns and ammunition, pouring in record quantities from our industrial facilities to the fighting fronts, more than 85 per cent is made by union labor.

"By providing the armed forces of the United Nations with overwhelming superiority in the weapons of war we can make ultimate victory certain and bring it nearer.

"From now on that will be the supreme objective of all American workers and the objective that must outweigh all other considerations. All our hopes and prayers for the safety of our loved ones overseas and for victory in 1944 must be translated into calm, steady, unremitting hard work."

On the same radio program, three of America's outstanding war heroes paid high tribute to labor's production achievements which they have observed while visiting war plants since their return to this country. Asked what he thought of the efforts of union workers, Charles E. (Commando) Kelly, holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor, said:

"They're doing well tho. The last time I saw were working hard and turning out a lot of stuff. I was very much impressed."

Lieut. Ernest Childers, who also has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, declared:

"They are really turning out the stuff, all right."

Machinist's Mate H. J. Holstrum, of the Seabees, who is a member of the Operating Engineers local union at San Francisco and has been decorated with the Purple Heart after being wounded in action, said of his tour of production duty:

"I was mighty proud of our folks wherever I went. I saw mer from 16 to 60 doing their part on the production lines. I met grandmothers, mothers, wives and daughters of servicemen on the job backing up their men. Some went to work at daybreak, some on the graveyard shift. But one and all wanted to do their part to win the war."

Industry Can Finance Post-War Boom, Working Capital Up $17 Billion

Philadelphia.—American industry as a whole will be able to handle the stupendous task of reconversion to peacetime production and even undertake considerable expansion without public aid, or any financial assistance, the SEC said, "which was at an unprecedented level, was in extremely liquid form with cash accounting for a very substantial proportion of the total."

The commission estimated that the increase in working capital during the four-year period from the end of 1939 to the end of 1943 amounted to $17,000,000,000, a rise of nearly 70 per cent.

The study, first of its kind made by the commission and unique in its scope, included figures for about 650,000 corporations.

The commission said that at the close of last year American corporations were in as favorable a financial position as ever in their history.

"They entered the period of current assets less all current liabilities including provisions for renegotiation), the SEC said, "which was at an unprecedented level, was in extremely liquid form with cash accounting for a very substantial proportion of the total."

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Metal Polishers Offer Membership To Veterans Without Initiation Fees

Cincinnati.—Honorably discharged veterans from the nation's armed forces, if suitably qualified, will be admitted to membership in the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Helpers International Union without payment of initiation fees, it was announced by Ray Kelsay, the organization's president-secretary-treasurer.

"We will be proud indeed," Mr. Kelsay declared, "to have among our membership those of our armed forces who wish to practice our craft. And we don't feel that these boys should pay an initiation fee for the privilege of working with us. We feel that ours is the privilege."

Mr. Kelsay stated also that the executive board of the Metal Polishers Union has established a rule designed to continue in good standing, without payment of dues or assessments, all members now serving in the armed forces. The rule further provides that such members immediately become participants in the union's benefit program.

With practically all of its membership working in war industries, the Metal Polishers have not had a stoppage of work since the "no-strike" pledge was made to President Roosevelt by AFL leaders the day after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Meany Berates Labor Department For Unrealistic Living Cost Index

Washington, D. C.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, berated the Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics for failure to perform their statutory duty "to foster, promote and develop wage-earner welfare."

At the annual meeting of labor research personnel called by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mr. Meany flatly charged that this agency is deliberately trying to keep its cost of living index down in order to cover up the government's failure to keep living costs down. He added:

"The Secretary of Labor does not represent the views of labor in the Cabinet."

The so-called Acting Commissioner of Labor Statistics (A. F. Hinrichs) has by his actions assumed the appearance of a bureaucratic monkey on a stick who moves up and down in conformity with the dictates of administrative wage policy."

"The BLS has prostituted its research functions to an administrative objective."

"There are sharp indications that the price-control policy of this government, having failed to keep living costs down, the administration decided the next best thing to do was to keep down the cost-of-living index. In this policy the BLS obsequiously acquiesced. We are led to the inescapable conclusion that the bureau has become identified with an effort to freeze wages, to the extent that it is no longer a free agency of statistical research."

"There is no national labor policy and no unification of administration of labor legislation which is dealing with labor problems."

Mr. Meany contended that the BLS is contributing by its silence to the popular deception that it keeps a cost of living index whereas, in fact, it is merely an index of some retail prices. He also asserted that the items included in the index were predominantly those over which the OPA had exercised tight price controls.

"Consciously or unconsciously," the AFL official added, "the bureau has permitted this fact to cause a serious downward bias in its measurement of the amount of increase in retail prices. Workers today have to depend heavily on foods and other items not priced by the bureau. Because of these defects in the index we no longer give an accurate measurement of price increases of goods bought by workers."

Bookbinders Donate 5,000 Decks Of Playing Cards For Hospital Ships

Washington, D. C.—At the request of the Army Service Forces, the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders is supplying 5,000 decks of union-made playing cards for use by wounded troops in hospital ships. The union's widespread gifts of these cards are greatly appreciated by the servicemen as is evidenced by the following extracts from the hundreds of letters pouring into the Bookbinders' offices here.

Assistant Field Director, J. B. Hopkins, Station Hospital, Camp Livingston, La.—The gift constitutes a very fine and real contribution to the pleasure of the sick soldiers here and you may be assured that it is gamiesly appreciated. The cards are of excellent quality and attractive appearance and will furnish many hours of recreation to the men who use them. The timeliness and interest as your group has shown will mean much to the soldier patients."

Assistant Field Director, M. E. Tarkles, Station Hospital, Nashville Army Air Center, Tenn.—May we express the appreciation of the military authorities as well as that of the patients and enlisted men who will have many hours of pleasure as a result of your thoughtfulness. It is reminders of such interest that keep the men aware that they are constantly being remembered by the people who are at home. The members of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders may well be proud of their gift to those men and the thousands of other servicemen who will receive the cards.